

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A~~ An oxygen enriched niobium wire that it is enriched with oxygen resistant to elevated temperatures, which at 1200 to 1400°C shows no detectable metal vapor pressure and wherein oxygen is enriched in bulk material of the wire.

2. (Original) A niobium wire in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the oxygen is in a concentration of about 3,000 to 30,000 µg/g.

Claims 3-9 Canceled